

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A sulfite composition having a sulfite concentration of 8 M to 10 M and a pH of 5.0 to 5.6 ~~more than 6.2 M~~.

2.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The sulfite composition according to Claim 1 comprising 2 types or more of sulfites.

5. (Previously Presented) The sulfite composition according to Claim 1 comprising 2 types or more of sulfites selected from the group consisting of ammonium salts and sodium salts of sulfites.

6. (Previously Presented) The sulfite composition according to Claim 1 comprising ammonium sulfite, ammonium bisulfite and sodium bisulfite.

7. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method for deaminating DNA comprising the following steps of:

(1) treating a sample containing a single-stranded DNA with a sulfite composition having a sulfite concentration of 8 M to 10 M at a pH of about 5.0 to 5.6 ~~more than 6.2 M~~; and

(2) treating the sample treated in (1) with an alkali.

8. (Withdrawn) The method for deaminating DNA according to Claim 7 comprising the following step (0) before the step (1):

(0) denaturing a double-stranded DNA in the sample into single-stranded DNAs.

9. (Withdrawn) The method for deaminating DNA according to Claim 7, wherein the DNA in the step (1) is DNA comprises cytosine.

10.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) The method for deaminating DNA according to Claim 7, wherein the step (1) is a step of performing the treatment at a temperature of about 60 to 95°C for about 5 to 60 minutes.

13. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method for detecting methylated DNA comprising the following steps of:

(a) performing deamination treatment by treating a sample containing a single-stranded DNA with a sulfite composition having a sulfite concentration of 8 M to 10 M at a pH range of about 5.0 to 5.6 ~~more than 6.2 M~~ and treating it with an alkali; and

(b) detecting methylated DNA in the sample obtained in (a).

14. (Withdrawn) The method for detecting methylated DNA according to Claim 13, wherein the DNA in the step (a) is DNA comprises cytosine, and the step (b) is a step of detecting methylated cytosine in the sample obtained in (a).

15. (Withdrawn) The method for detecting methylated DNA according to Claim 14, wherein the step (b) is a step of detecting methylated cytosine in the sample by using any of nucleotide sequence determination, a DNA chip and a restriction enzyme.

16. (Withdrawn) The method for detecting methylated DNA according to Claim 14, wherein the step (b) is a step of detecting methylated cytosine by means of amplifying DNA in the sample using at least one primer that can amplify a nucleic acid in the case where cytosine of DNA is converted to uracil and at least one primer that can amplify a nucleic acid in the case where cytosine is not converted to uracil, and identifying the locations of 5-methylcytosine and uracil based on the presence or absence of amplification.

17. (Previously Presented) A kit for deaminating DNA comprising a sulfite composition according to Claim 1.

18. (Previously Presented) A kit for detecting methylated DNA comprising a sulfite composition according to Claim 1.